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National Association of Counties

Small Grant Program for Counties

**To Develop Programs to Divert Individuals with Mental Illness
from Local Jails and Criminal Justice Systems to Community
Treatment and Services**

2005

Request for Proposals

Number of Grants: No more than 5

Amount: Up to \$5,000

Grant Period: November 1, 2005 - October 31, 2006

Application Deadline: September 9, 2005

Awards Announced: No later than October 7, 2005

A. Introduction:

NACo has been providing education, training, and technical assistance to counties on this issue since Ken Mayfield; Commissioner from Dallas County, TX made the issue of diverting individuals with mental illness from county jails one of his top priorities during his 2002-2003 NACo presidency.

NACo is in its second year of an Eli Lilly & Company funded project to provide this grant program to counties.

Counties across the country continue to report the struggle they face with the overcrowding of their jails, the lack of coordinated mental health services, and the lack of housing for mentally ill individuals. However, counties have and continue to design effective programs to divert individuals with mental illness out of the jails to community-based treatment resulting in improvements in the safety and health of their communities.

With the second year funding from Lilly, NACo is able to offer a second round of competitive RFPs (Request for Proposals) for seed grants to divert offenders with mental illness to community-based treatment. The purpose of the grants program is to help counties that demonstrate readiness to move forward to develop a jail diversion program.

NACo will be awarding grants in the amount of **up to \$5,000** to a maximum of **five (5)** counties. The funding could be used to support the formation of a planning group, which **must** include representatives from both mental health and criminal justice systems. The funding could also be used to develop and/or implement a strategic county-wide plan for diverting individuals with mental illness from local jails, develop a continuum of community-based resources and services to care for individuals with mental illness, and/or develop CIT or mental health court type programs.

There are several evidenced-based approaches for criminal justice diversion, including Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), mental health courts, and re-entry or jail discharge planning to assist mentally ill offenders to reintegrate into the community.

A state association may also apply for the seed grants and may use the funding to host a forum or training for county officials on the topic of jail diversion. The forum or training should focus on helping counties develop a plan for action for addressing the issue in their counties.

Applicants are encouraged to design or enhance projects that include one or more of the above mentioned existing strategic diversion interventions. Proposed projects should focus on county leadership in convening key stakeholder groups and creating or strengthening collaborative efforts between local criminal justice and mental health systems.

B. Grant Program Goal:

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The ultimate goal of this seed grant program is to assist counties divert appropriate mentally ill individuals from local jails to community-based treatment and services. NACo will assist those counties that are beginning efforts, as well as those counties that are further along in the process and who are looking to strengthen and/or expand current efforts.

Grants will assist counties to:

- Conduct a community mapping or assessment of need for services to determine which approach or blend of approaches would work best for their county
- Form a planning group, which **must** include representatives from both mental health and criminal justice systems which results in the creation of an action plan for developing programs
- Consider the several evidenced-based approaches for criminal justice diversion, including crisis intervention team (CIT), mental health courts, and re-entry or jail discharge planning to assist mentally ill offenders to reintegrate into the community
- Implement an existing strategic/action plan

NACo will document grantee's experiences and share lessons learned with other counties. Funding from the small grants can be used in conjunction with other funding sources to enhance project goals.

Examples of activities to be implemented during the grant year:

- Form a task force or strengthen a current task force to develop a formal report to the County Commission that cites several recommendations for building a diversion program that meets local needs
- Develop, organize, and implement a local training program for local law enforcement on how to effectively respond and divert non-violent mentally ill individuals to community-based settings.
- Propose an expansion plan to an existing jail diversion program which will improve your program's ability to divert individuals to community-based treatment alternatives and improve services for those individuals.

A requirement of grant recipients will be to participate in quarterly conference calls to share their experiences. NACo will publicize final outcomes for each of the grantee's projects, and will produce articles and other publications.

C. Eligibility:

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A county is eligible to apply if:

- They are a current NACo member county
- They can demonstrate that some effort has been made to address the issue of the mentally ill in county jails
- The county plays a significant leadership role in the development and implementation of the grant activities
- The Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners approves the grant application. A signature is required.
- They commit in advance to participating in an orientation meeting

Grant money will be awarded with consideration to geographically and demographically diverse counties, including frontier, rural, and underserved communities.

D. Grants Disbursements:

NACo will sign a sub-grant agreement with selected grantees. Grantees will eligible be for grants in the amount of up to \$5,000 to reimburse for project activities following receipt of the grantee's signed award contract.

E. Project Expectations:

Counties receiving awards will be required to participate in an on-site orientation session. NACo will provide for the travel expenses for the main project contact of the county grantees to travel to an orientation session that will be held in conjunction with NACo's 2005 Health, Human Services and Workforce Conference, November 17-19 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

During the orientation session, the following topics will be discussed:

- Model program strategies and successes/lessons learned from existing county programs
- Expectations for the project year
- Reporting and financial requirements of the small grants

At the conclusion of the project year, grantees are required to submit a final report, to include the following:

- Copies of all materials developed and produced according to project plans, including action plans, training manuals, recommendation reports to County Commissions, and any other relevant printed materials
- Description of resources used and strategies that were implemented
- Evaluation of the project and any successes and outcomes achieved during the project year

F. Submitting Your Application:

All submissions must include a cover page with the following information:

Application Information:

- 1.) Name of county or state association
- 2.) Street Address
- 3.) City, State, and Zip
- 4.) County Population

Project Contacts:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.) Name of Project Coordinator | Name of Financial Coordinator |
| 2.) Title | Title |
| 3.) Department | Address |
| 4.) Address | Phone |
| 5.) Phone | Fax |
| 6.) Fax | Email |
| 7.) Email | |
| 8.) Program Web page | |

Project Information:

- 1.) Project title or name
- 2.) Project location(s)
- 3.) Project start date
- 4.) Requires 2 application signatures
 - a. Name of county Project Coordinator, Signature, and Date
 - b. Name of the Chair, County Board of Commissioners, Signature, and Date

Proposal Narrative must include, but is not limited to the following:

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- A brief statement of need and background on any current efforts;
- A description of the proposed project, including any evidenced-based approaches to jail diversion to be used, community mapping strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county-wide planning strategies, etc;
- Specify measurable goals;
- A brief description of the community, including a description of key stakeholders, organizations, and county departments that will be involved in the project;
- A description of how the activities started in this grant will be continued, including plans for leveraging additional resources;
- A brief description of how the project will be evaluated;
- A proposed budget for expenditures of the grant

Proposal submissions should not exceed 7 pages (including cover page) of double-spaced text.

G. Important Dates:

November 1, 2005 - October 31, 2006
September 9, 2005

Grant Project Period
Application Deadline (**entry must be postmarked by this date**)
Awards Announced
Final Report Due to NACo

October 7, 2005
November 30, 20006

H. How to Apply:

Applications can be downloaded from NACo's website: www.naco.org/techassistance

For questions concerning the process or application, please contact Lesley Buchan, Project Manager NACo's Community Service Division at lbuchan@naco.org.

Applications may be mailed electronically and/or via postal mail to:

Lesley Buchan
Project Manager, Community Service Division
NACo
440 First Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Email: lbuchan@naco.org